



On Jan. 4, the world lost a great soul with the passing of Darrell Pakele.

Darrell returned home to Hilo as much as he could to give back as an official for the Haili Men's USA Volleyball weeklong tournament. It wasn't until the 2000s that he made the move permanently back to Hilo.

When he arrived, the officiating world was truly blessed with his presence and knowledge of rules. He set the standards for the NFHS crew, he whipped the PAVO lines judges into shape, and he raised the level of officials.

His death has been taken very hard by all athletes, coaches and fellow officials. He was a great mentor, and he pushed and made calls to make sure professionalism, ethics and procedures were followed. This big Kahuna will be missed and held dearly to each of us who officiated with him and got to know him outside of volleyball.

Blessings to his wife Sue and his two children.

*A Hui Hou Malama Pono my friend, my mentor,  
my go-to rule interpreter, oh how I miss you.....  
Jennie Maikui, Moku O Keawe Region Officials  
Chair, NFHS Officials Chair*

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## Dear National Officials,

We hope everyone is having a great start to the new year. Be advised that this National Official update email is going to all National Scorers, Zonal and National Beach Officials, and Junior National and National Referees.

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## Health and Wellness Information

Read: [Foods to Avoid After 50 from the AARP](#)

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## Retirement

If you're thinking about retiring, please let us know early so you can come to your final qualifier or national championship, and we can have a party. [Use this link](#) to let us know your plans.

National and Junior National Expired or Retired Referees who are looking to come back can go through the [RISE Expired or Retired Candidate Program](#). Scroll to Applications, then RISE Programs.

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## USA Volleyball Officials Academy Clinic Schedule and Topics

These will be live virtual clinics with subject-matter experts (if you are unable to make the live virtual clinic, the recording will be delivered to your USAV Academy account one week after the live event).

Junior National Referees and National Referees will go into their USAV Academy account and click on the course US24\_504 USAV National Officials Clinic and will click register for any of the four clinics that you want to attend live.

For information on how to log in to the Academy please [use this link](#), scroll to "Important Materials for Indoor Referees," "Sports Engine and USAV Academy," and "USAV Academy Log-in Instructions."

- Jan. 31, 2024. 6 p.m. MST – "Another Look at Scoring Tragedies" presented by Rachael Rodriguez, International Scorer and USA Volleyball National Scorer Candidate Program Lead
- Feb. 28, 2024, 6 p.m. MST – "R2 Transition and Other Responsibilities + Handling Rotations as R2 and (R1)"
- March 27, 2024, 6 p.m. MST – "Managing Coach and Bench Behavior"
- April 24, 2024, 6 p.m. MST – "Preparing for the USA Volleyball National Championships"

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## Indoor Candidate Programs

The deadlines are approaching for the National Referee, Junior National Referee, and National Scorer Candidate Programs.

National Referee applications must be submitted by Feb. 15, 2024.

Junior National Referee applications must be submitted to your region by March 15, 2024.

National Scorer applications must be submitted by Feb. 15, 2024.

[Find all information](#) on the National Referee and Junior National Programs. Scroll to Applications and select the program.

**Find all information** on the National Scorer Program. Scroll to Applications and select the program.

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## **Beach Candidate Programs**

The deadline to register for the Gulf Shores Local and Zonal Candidate Camp on Feb. 22-24 is Feb. 14. **Register now.**

Don't miss the opportunity to get on the beach in Gulf Shores, one of the prettiest spots for a beach event. Thanks to the Gulf Coast Region for hosting.

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## **National Event Registration**

Reminder: Early registration deadlines are approaching for national championships (register before the deadlines below):

- **Open National Championship:** Feb. 1
- **Girls Junior National Championship 11-13:** We will start accepting regional referees on Feb. 15; Junior National and National Referees, please register before this date for early acceptance.
- **Girls Junior National Championship 14-17:** We will start accepting regional referees on Feb. 15; Junior National and National Referees, please register before this date for early acceptance.
- **Girls 18s National Championship:** Feb. 19
- **Boys Junior National Championship:** March 1

**REGISTRATION FOR ALL NATIONAL EVENTS IS OPEN NOW IN AES – WE NEED YOU** – Your participation is critical to the success of these events.

**MANDATORY:** For proper sizing of VIK, please update your profiles in AES and your current certification.

**Find online events and register in AES.**

- **Salt Lake City Showdown**, April 6-8 and April 12-14 - Acceptances will happen within two weeks of registration for Junior National and National Referees.
- **Girls 18s Junior National Championship**, April 26-28 - Acceptances for GJNC 18s will begin Feb. 19. Only Junior National and National Referees will be accepted.
- **Open National Championship**, May 24-29 – Acceptances will begin Feb. 1.
- **Girls Junior National Championship (11s-13s)**, June 21-24 – Acceptances will happen within two weeks of registration for Junior National and National Referees.

- **Boys Junior National Championship**, June 26-29 – Acceptances for BJNC will begin March 1.
  - **Girls Junior National Championship** (14s-17s), July 3-11 – Acceptances for GJNC will happen within two weeks of registration for Junior National and National Referees.
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## **NORCECA International Candidate Course**

Please welcome the USA's newest NORCECA International Continental Referee Candidates.

In order from left to right:

### **Indoor Officials**

1. Breanna Spain, Old Dominion Region
2. Lena Gustafson, Intermountain Region
3. Nikki Kathol, Arizona Region

### **Beach Officials**

1. Deanna Schneyer, SCVA
2. Rene Simon Marcellus, SCVA
3. Kaylene Cragun, Intermountain Region

### **Referee coaches in picture**

1. Far right, Indoor, Guy Bradbury from Canada, President of the NORCECA Rules of the Game and Referee Commission, also a member of the FIVB Rules of the Game and Refereeing Commission
2. On left, Lemuel Torres from Puerto Rico, Referee Beach Coach, FIVB International Referee
3. Second from Left, Andre Trottier from Canada, Beach Referee Coach, Member of the NORCECA Rules of the Game and Referee Commission, also a member of the FIVB Rules of the Game and Refereeing Commission



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